

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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'DIRTY' LAUNDRY: Rebecca Shepherd, co-owner of Urban Alchemist on Fifth Street, has covered her window with "dirty secrets."

REVEALED! Slope's secrets on display

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Get a deep dark secret? Why not post it on the front of a Park Slope vintage jewelry and clothing store? The owners of Urban Alchemist, which is on Fifth Street, just east of Fifth Avenue, have been providing space for a nifty art project that lives up to its name, "Dirty Secrets."

About 50 hand-written mysteries adorn the front window. Some are innocuous ("I still sleep with my teddy bear" or "My resume is a sham"), some are scandalous ("I once had sex with my teacher for an A on a test"), some are just embarrassing ("I have a crush on Joey Fatone").

Others are just plain

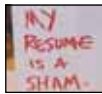
horrifying ("I voted for McCain").

"The idea is to let people reveal their secret," said co-owner Rebecca Shepherd. "You have no idea how much better you feel when you let it out, even anonymously."

Shepherd said her favorite was the secret of the lowly worker at a Solo gallery who felt so put upon by his bosses that when they went on vacation, he urinated in their Snapple bottles and then watched in glee when the bosses drank from them days later.

"It's so delightfully devious and awful," she said.

So enjoy them while you can; next week, the exhibit will be down — replaced by something equally eye-catching: vintage pornography.



MORE IS LESS!

'Park' planners: Rise in costs actually a decrease

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The cost to construct — and operate — the troubled Brooklyn Bridge Park development has gone up again, but its planners say that the higher maintenance cost is actually a cut!

The price tag for the 1.3-mile strip of waterfront housing and open space along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfront is now \$347 million — up from an original budget of \$350 million in 2002. And the cost for annual upkeep inched to \$16.1 million, up from a projected \$15.2 million, according to sources briefed after a meeting on Monday of the project's planners.

But the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation quickly denied that the upkeep costs have risen.

"They have not gone up," spokes-



Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer's project will cost more.

woman Lisa Willner said via e-mail. In fact, she said the costs are actually going down: "Taking inflation into account, the \$15.2 million ... is equal to \$17.2 million in 2008 dollars."

She did not comment on the soaring construction costs of the development.

The new figures come to light just as development officials were forced to admit that their principal sources of revenue for maintenance — a hotel and roughly 800 units of luxury housing inside the park's footprint — had been postponed.

Additionally, the "park" now consists only of passive recreation areas at Pier 1 at the foot of Old Fulton Street and Pier 6 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue. Officials vow that those areas will be

See PARK 5 on page 11

Who would you rather see nude?



Brooklyn Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman and Miss America runner-up, the former Miss Brooklyn Leigh-Taylor Smith, were in the news last week — and one of them ended up naked. See page 9 to find out which one stripped down.

They stole his scroll! Torah taken after trip to Caribbean

By Zeke Faux
for The Brooklyn Paper

The holiday was kosher, but the return trip was a nightmare for one Brooklyn Heights synagogue, which lost a sacred Torah in a car break-in on Sunday night.

Cops say that a thief stole one of Congregation B'nai Avraham's hand-written religious scrolls from a car parked in Crown Heights.

The shul is on schpalks hoping for the Good Book's return.

"We're looking through

trash bins [in Crown Heights] in case the thief didn't know what he got — and we're offering a \$1,000 reward," said Rabbi Simcha Weinstein of the Remsen Street congregation.

The scroll, which took years to inscribe and is worth at least \$10,000, was acquired about a decade ago. B'nai Avraham let a group of congregants borrow the Torah for a "Kosher holiday" to Turks and Caicos.

"We lent them a Torah so they could have services on the island. They got back late, and they thought it would be safe

for one night in a duffel bag in the back of the car," explained Weinstein. "One night!"

But not even the all-seeing eye of the Lord could protect the holy scroll — the sacred Five Books of Moses that comprise the Jewish Old Testament.

Under the cover of darkness, the thief shattered the driver's-side window of the car, which was parked on Union Street near Utica Avenue, then grabbed the duffel bag and fled.

Who would want a Torah? The hand-written scrolls can be

worth tens of thousands of dollars, but for one problem: they are extremely difficult to fence.

Like most Torahs, this scroll had been previously stamped by the Universal Torah Registry with a secret code, a sort of Talmudic dye pack.

Registered Torahs are identified in an online database that synagogues check before making a purchase.

"Once [would-be buyers] realize a Torah is registered, they don't want to buy it, so there have been very few To-

See TORAH on page 11



Rabbi Aaron Raskin shows off the empty space in the Congregation B'nai Avraham ark where a Torah should be. The sacred scroll, valued at \$10,000, was stolen out of a car this week.

Readers: Mom's not so 'Smart'

The Brooklyn Paper

After posting Smartmom's piece last week — the one in which Smartmom wondered whether she should stop writing about her children in her tell-all column — The Brooklyn Paper asked readers whether our popular parenting columnist should stop invading her kids' privacy.

The overwhelming response? Yes.

Some readers even blamed Smartmom for the widespread perception of Park Slope as an island of self-obsessed parenting.

"Smartmom's no small part of why Park Slope parents have become the target of so much derision," wrote "Adulv Please" from Park Slope. "Perhaps The Brooklyn Paper has allowed her to babble on for so long in hopes of keeping the 'controversy' alive, but when even her kids are telling her to shut up, you'd think she would finally get the picture."

Tough luck, Adulv Please — in this week's column, Smartmom says she's sticking to her guns!

In that case, most respondents said that Smartmom should pre-

See SMART on page 11

To save money, LICH selling brownstones

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The cash-strapped Long Island College Hospital is selling a chunk of its real-estate portfolio to stave off its ongoing financial meltdown, reviving the controversy that nearly tore the hospital apart in 2008.

Critics say that the hospital's management company, Continuum Health Partners, is breaking a recent promise that

no more property would be sold. They characterized the bid to vend multiple brownstone houses, apartment buildings and an undeveloped lot around the core campus in Cobble Hill as a get-rich-quick scheme before an expected rupture between the hospital and Continuum.

"They're trying to get while the getting's good," said Tom Sorra, a doctor and outspoken opponent of Continuum's control of LICH since the

two joined in 1998. "This is desperate assurances that there would be absolutely no more real-estate sales."

A hospital spokeswoman countered that the properties, previously used as residences and office space, are not vital for the medical services offered at Long Island College Hospital and should be sold to negate the burden of debt obligations and yawning budget deficits, which ran close to \$40 mil-

lion in 2008.

"LICH presently is gauging interest in several brownstone properties for the possibility of future sale," said Zippi Dvash. "These properties are not essential to the overall operations of the hospital, and their future sale would contribute to LICH's long-term financial future."

Sorra said the new selloff dredged up bad memories of previous transactions when the hospital sold the historic Lamm Institute building on Amity Street and the former long-shoremen's union fa-

cility on Court Street. Taken together, he says, Continuum is shrinking the 150-year-old hospital out of business, an accusation that often flared up throughout 2008.

Last year, the management company also attempted to shut the maternity and pediatric wards, asserting that they were a drain on the hospital's limited resources, but the

state rebuffed Continuum, forcing LICH to keep the two wards open and gave them a short-term loan to tide the hospital over.

The current attempted sale of eight properties in and around the Cobble Hill medical center are being handled by the real-estate firm Grubband Ellis. Crain's reported last Friday, but there is no asking price for any of them. Instead, parties are invited to make an offer.

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THE SEVENTH AVE. FRAMING

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

FORT GREENE

New plan for 'telecom'

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A developer wants to transform one of Fort Greene's most imposing and desolate blocks by building housing, a supermarket and — he still yearns for beating hearts, pinheads — a bowling alley.

The month taking up the block, bounded by Vanderbilt, Clermont and Atlantic avenues and Fulton Street — formerly a high-tech telecommunications office building — could be refurbished to be a more attractive retail and office building, while the existing parking lot could be turned into a 350-unit apartment building if the city approves the developer's rezoning proposal.

More than 20 percent of the units would be rented at below-market rates thanks to taxpayer subsidies.

"It's an important connection point at the end of Fort Greene, but right now it's a no-man's land with a giant parking lot," said Andrew Zohler, the chief executive officer of GFI Development. "Everyone wants to see it connected with the rest of the neighborhood."

The building has languished since the dot-com

A developer wants to turn the former telecom building on Atlantic Avenue between Clermont and Vanderbilt avenues in Fort Greene into a residential development.

bubble burst near the start of the century and was controlled by the Carlyle Group until GFI acquired it a year and a half ago.

Zohler presented preliminary plans last week for converting the equipment-filled building and Community Board 2's Land Use Committee responded with 13-0

vote in favor of the project.

Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Clinton Hill) has also been an outspoken supporter, citing the proposal's "community amenities."

"Like the affordable housing, the supermarket and retail components," she told The Brooklyn Paper.

But the developers have so far had a strike of the baseball, not bowling variety, in finding an alley operator to join them.

The project has not yet begun the rigorous land-use review process that is required for a developer's seek to change zoning, in this case from manufacturing to residential.

BAY RIDGE

'Green' school moves forward

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

A city plan to build an elementary school at the site of Bay Ridge's now-demolished "Green Church" advanced last week, thanks to a nearly unanimous vote by Community Board 10.

The Jan. 26 vote ended the city's plan for a 680-seat primary school in a new four- or five-story building that would rise from the rubble of the emerald-hued Bay Ridge United Methodist Church at the corner of Ovington and Fourth Avenues.

The church's congregation tore down its verdant house of worship in October to make room for a smaller, easier to maintain church funded by pending \$9.75-million sale of its land.

Developer Abe Betsch initially said he would construct 72 condominiums on the site, but later changed his mind, hawking the site as perfect for a school.

The city can not formally acquire the land from Betsch until the site goes through a public-review process that includes a traffic study and a signoff by the City Council and the Department of City Planning.

The School Construction Authority said it wants to gain approval for the school so it can be included in the agency's current five-year budget, which must be finalized by June 30.

Bay Ridge is one of the neediest school districts for seats — there's just not enough seats available," the School Construction Authority's community relations manager Fred Maley said during the meeting.

Maley said the agency is currently eyeing another school site on Fourth Avenue between 88th and 89th streets, and is considering an annex for PS 69 on 62nd Street between Fort Hamilton Parkway and Ninth Avenue.

Despite the lopsided vote, one critic complained that school buses and double-parked cars might turn the narrow street into an impasse, while others questioned the need for a new school at all.

"I don't think we should be expending funds for a building that destroyed something so dear to the community," said board member Bob Casara. "We're voting to support increased taxes and the destruction of a landmark."

Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) said he supports the Green Church school plan because of overcrowding at other schools. He said he was also concerned that Betsch might do nothing with the property until the housing market rebounds.

"He cannot guarantee me that he can put up something at that site," Gentile said. "We might be faced with the prospect of having a vacant lot at that corner for two or three years until the economy comes around."

That said, the school would not open until September, 2013.

GREENPOINT

Hams on a roll return for race

The annual Idiotarod cart race is set for Saturday

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Stupid is as stupid does. And when stupid dresses in a costume, appropriates a shopping cart, and pushes it around the city with friends in search of merriment, attention and intoxication, it's likely that stupid is taking part in the Idiotarod.

The annual race that mocks the great Alaskan Iditarod by putting shopping carts in place of sleds — and people in the place of sled dogs — will roll through the borough on Saturday, bringing dozens of costumed rabble-rousers on a rickety, ever-evolving circuit.

As always, details about the race are shrouded in more secrecy than Obama's e-mail address, with organizers going so far as charging news agencies \$200 to cover the event (Editor's note: Thanks but no thanks. We only pay for exclusives!).

Interested participants can register online at www.cartsofbrooklyn.com for \$35 and must arrive with a team of five racers and shopping cart for the 10 am start, which is listed as the Socrates Sculpture Park in Long Island City.

But don't get too wed on distant Queens. Last year, seconds before the gun sounded, the starting line was moved from Greenpoint to Chinatown in an attempt to evade police. Contestants say it will likely happen again.

And once the Idiotarod begins, anything goes.

"We will give racers a starting line, some check-points and a finish line. You choose the fastest path," read the rules on the Idiotarod Web site.

Competitors at previous Idiotarods say the event is a blast for the costumed teams, which navigate their decorated carts from neighborhood to neighborhood aiming more for style than speed.

"It's a spectacle that's really fun if you're a part of it — and not so fun if you live in a neighborhood where there are hundreds of carts left behind," said blogger Keith Wagstaff, whose 2008 team, "Kraftwerk for the Weekend," dressed like the German Technopioneers and danced to Kraftwerk as they pushed the cart around the city.

For information, visit www.cartsofbrooklyn.com.

Who doesn't love the Idiotarod? Join in the fun this Saturday.

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Herb Kaufman, preservationist, dies

The Brooklyn Paper

Herbert Kaufman, a prominent architect who was integral in preserving historic brownstones in Brooklyn Heights in the 1960s, died Jan. 15 from an infection in his lungs. He was 92.

Kaufman, who moved to the Heights in 1951, worked closely with other notable preservationists at the Brooklyn Heights Association, including Gus Pearsall and Edwards Rulman and the late Malcolm Chesney. The three helped educate homeowners about history and renovation, years before brownstone restoration became popular.

Kaufman helped renovate the YMCA on Jerusalem Street, and worked to make the neighborhood a historic district in 1965.

"Herbert was quite an impressive man, and a lovely person," said his longtime Hicks Street neighbor, Marina Koval, who is the president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy. "He was like an adopted grandfather for my daughter."

Beyond Brooklyn, Kaufman was part of the successful fight to save Grand Central Terminal in 1967, and worked to save Pennsylvania Station in the early 1960s, work that combined his two loves: preservation and trains.

His wife, Enid Neidle, said they were best friends who traveled the world by rail. "He was an intelligent, well-educated man, with a lot of interests in common with me," Neidle said. "He was very knowledgeable about history, and he was passionate about trains."

Kaufman served on the Brooklyn Heights Association board for many years, and, until recently, was still active in a senior advisory role.

Kaufman is survived by his wife and two children, Ned and Meg Kaufman, and a granddaughter. He traveled the world by rail and host a private memorial service on Feb. 17.

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Two gunmen steal phones

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope
Two gun-toting robbers held up a cellphone shop on Jan. 20

— in broad daylight and within sight of a police station. Workers at the store, which is located on the corner of Park Place and Flatbush Avenue, less than a block from the 78th Precinct stationhouse, told cops that one of the men walked in around 11:25 am and promptly distracted the salespeople by asking about the phones.

That's when the second perp entered, brandishing a handgun and demanding that workers start shoveling phones

into a black garbage bag.

Meanwhile, the first perp pulled out a gun and told the clerk, "Get the money out the drawer."

The gunmen then herded the staff at gunpoint into a back room and fled with \$650 and \$4,800 worth of phones.

Prying hands
A crotch-wielding crook

pried his way into a Sackett Street apartment on Jan. 23 and made off with \$900 worth of electronics.

The owner told cops that he was gone from 7 am to 6 pm, and when he returned to his apartment, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, he found con-

POLICE BLOTTER

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siderable damage to his front door. Inside, he found his laptop and digital camera were gone, as well as \$50 in coins.

Shots or not?
A gun-toting crook tried to rob a man on the front steps of his 11th Street apartment

on Jan. 24, but he left empty-handed. The victim told cops that he was coming home at 3:15

am when he was approached from behind by a stranger who climbed the front steps to the victim's building, between Third and Fourth avenues.

The stranger flashed his piece and said, "Give me your money."

When the victim refused to comply, there was a scuffle. But the jittery crook ran off towards Third Avenue. Witnesses told the Brooklyn Paper that they heard shots fired.

The victim told cops that he reported the crime to the 88th Precinct.

— **Evan Gardner**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Heat is on

A thief snatched an idling car on Washington Avenue while the owner let it warm up on chilly Jan. 22.

The owner, a 57-year-old man, told police he turned on his 2004 Mercedes-Benz E350 directly in front of his home between Greene and Gates avenues. He then waited in his vestibule at 10 am until the car shook off the chill.

When he turned his back to lock the building's front door, he heard the sound of his car door opening and spun around to see another man driving off with his German import.

Double whammy
Police were seeing green when they arrested a man on Jan. 22 for stealing a car because the dopey crook on Park Avenue also had a bag of pot and drug accessories on his person.

The alleged criminal, 24, was spotted at 4:19 pm behind the wheel of the stolen vehicle — the ever-popular Nissan Quest minivan, which was reported missing earlier that day — near the corner of Emerson Place.

Officers say they found the wacky tobacco during the arrest.

About a girl
An unevenly matched neighborhood argument among the men ended with one getting a bottle broken over his head at the corner of Lafayette and Grand avenues on Jan. 19.

The victim, 36, said he argued with the four other hooligans over a woman — the

details are unclear — and eventually one of the quartet swatted his noggin with glass bottles at 2 am. The victim went to Interfaith Medical Center under his own power for treatment.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights
DUMBO-Boerum Hill
Downtown

Hot Sidekicks
Every crook needs a sidekick — a T-Mobile Sidekick.

A hood snatched a teen's purse on Fulton Street on Jan. 21 and got away with one of those sweet phones at around 5:15 pm at the corner of Red Hook Lane. He also got \$20 and the girl's Metrocard.

In an unrelated theft, a no-bit thug stole a 12-year-old's Sidekick on Sands Street under the BQE on Jan. 19 at 5:15 pm — but the crook didn't get far before cops collared him.

Easy pickings
In these desperate times, you have to keep an eye out for thieves — a lesson four people learned this week.

• A Park Sloper forgot her MacBook at the Jay Street subway station at 4:40 pm on Jan. 23 — and someone swiped it within 20 minutes.

• A woman left her purse at a Living Street court-house around 2:20 pm on Jan. 21. Someone grabbed it and tried to use her credit cards.

• A thief grabbed a purse left on the counter of a Full-on Mail department store at the corner of Hoyt Street on Jan. 19 at 5:30 pm, and made off with \$100.

• A man was pickpocketed as he shopped at a market on the corner of Atlantic Avenue and Bond Street on Jan. 20 around 3 pm. The crook scored \$20.

No accounting
A minnie crook wiggled through an accountant's bedroom window on Warren Street on Jan. 23 and walked off with a laptop.

The thief broke in sometime between 9:30 am and 6:30 pm, when the bean-counter was at work. When he returned to the unit, which is between Nevins and Bond streets, he found the window and front door open and his HP laptop gone.

— **Zake Faux**

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint and Williamsburg
Bay Ridge

Purse curse
It was a bad week to own a purse in North Brooklyn. Crooks preyed on unattended handbags, snatching at least five purses from bars and clubs. Here are the shocking details:

• A thief snatched a 39-year-old woman's purse from a Greenpoint Avenue bar on Jan. 17 and used her credit cards to buy a \$550 BMW hat.

The thief grabbed at around 2 am while the victim was in the restroom of the venue, which is between West and Franklin streets.

• A hoodlum snatched a 29-year-old reveler's purse from a Union Avenue bar on Jan. 18 while the victim was dancing between 2:30 am and 3 am. He escaped from the bar, which is at North 11th Street, with the victim's credit cards, Motorola cellphone, keys, clothing, IDs and \$160.

• A hoodlum grabbed a woman's purse while she used the restroom at a Bedford Avenue nightclub over-night on Jan. 21.

— **Emily Lavin**

A thug snatched the bag from a table between 11:45 pm and 12:45 am, and escaped from the venue, which is between North Seventh and North Eighth streets, with the victim's credit cards, IDs, gift cards, Metrocard, wallet, and \$80.

• A thug snatched a pocketbook containing two revelers' valuables on Jan. 24. The crook grabbed the untended brown leather bag from the bar at North Sixth Street, between 2 am and 2:20 am.

Once the crook had the purse, which contained an iPhone, cellphone, Sanyo digital camera, credit cards, IDs, and \$50, he escaped from the venue, which is between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street.

• A thief snatched a black studded purse from a Meserole Avenue rock club on Jan. 24, grabbing the bag between 2 am and 2:30 am and fleeing the venue, which is between Manhattan Avenue and Lorimer Street. He got a cellphone, glasses and keys.

— **Ben Muesigg**

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick
Child abused

Cops nabbed a teenager suspected of snatching an 11-year-old's phone as he walked to school on Jan. 23.

The alleged thug and his accomplices trailed the victim and his 13-year-old friend as they walked to school at around 8:15 am, following the adolescents into a bodega on Graham Avenue between Meserole Avenue and Meserole Street, cops said.

Once inside, the crooks grabbed the child's Sidekick cellphone and fled, but police locked up a 17-year-old suspect the next day.

— **Ben Muesigg**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook
Carriage trade

A deft punk stole a woman's purse from her baby carriage as she shopped in a supermarket at the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue on Jan. 21.

The thiefy happened around 12:30 pm, when someone wily nabbed the purse containing \$40, a gift card for that very supermarket from the 32-year-old victim.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge
Cell wall

A group of thugs robbed a teenage boy as he waited for a train at a subway station at 62nd Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway on Jan. 21.

The 15-year-old victim told cops he was waiting for a Coney Island-bound N train at just after 8 pm when the five teenagers walked up to him and asked for his cellphone. Surrounded, the victim calmly did as he was asked, and the suspects hopped on the departing train with the \$300 phone.

Bling bling
Someone burgled an 86th Street home of some major bangles on Jan. 22.

The 51-year-old owner of the home, which is between 136th and 14th avenues, said he left his house at around 11:30 am to do some grocery shopping. When he returned less than three hours later, he noticed part of his front door was broken and more than \$8,000 in jewelry was gone from inside.

— **Emily Lavin**

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 31, 2008

Bushwick

Get to this low-key hip neighborhood now

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Everyone meet Bushwick: Williamsburg's cooler sister who doesn't wear as much make-up.

The hard-crackle neighborhood known for its industrial buildings and once-mean streets has grown into an unpretentious artistic enclave surrounding the Morgan Avenue L train station — without any of the expected pomposity and hoopla.

"Bushwick is where most of the stuff in Brooklyn is going on — or at least most of the stuff that people who aren't particularly wealthy can afford to do," said Jeremy Sapienza, who runs the revered neighborhood Web site www.bushwickBK.com.

Sapienza tows the neighborhood nestled between Flushing and Bushwick avenues and the English Kills channel for its art galleries, impromptu performance spaces, cafes, eateries, and its diverse building stock of tenements, lofts, active industrial sites, and vinyl-sided homes.

"We don't have brownstones, but we've got our own stuff," he said.

But it's not the buildings that transformed Bushwick into a place to be — it's the people who moved to the neighborhood around the sixth stop on the L train, according to Wreck Room bartender Jose Reyes.

"When I first moved here back before bars opened up, you'd come off the train in the middle of the night and there would be like two people getting off the L. Now there's like 50," said Reyes. "Bushwick is the new Williamsburg, which is the new Lower East Side."

So if you decide to follow Brooklyn's eastward march towards its former main-fest, where should you go? Hop an L train — easy to catch from 14th Street in Manhattan — and use this helpful neighborhood crawl.

1 Kings County

Bushwick boozehounds and nightlife insiders flock to the seemingly hidden bar, King's County, where finding the front door is half the adventure.

"Walking into Kings County makes you feel like you're entering a speakeasy," said neighborhood expert Jeremy Sapienza of the watering hole King's County, whose only signage is a tiny metal crown above a no-descript storefront.

Once inside, revelers pursue the wide selection of whiskey and bourbon, or take advantage of happy hour specials boasting \$4 drafts and Budweisers served with a shot of Jack Daniels (\$5) until 8 p.m.

Kings County (286 Seigel St. between White and Bogart streets, (718) 418-8823, Daily 4pm-4am.

2 The Archive Cafe

The Archive Cafe has been one Bushwick's main hangout's since it opened five years ago, partly because of its Fair Trade coffee — and partly because it's the only

video rental shop in the neighborhood. Alongside its strip coffees and espressos, yogurts and bagels served with lox, tomato, onion and cream cheese (\$7), the Bogart Street shop carries about 2,000 DVDs — a mix of crime, horror, documentary and foreign, according to manager Dan Mitchell, who rents to films for \$3.50 apiece.

Archive Cafe (49 Bogart St. between Grattan and Moore streets, (718) 381-1944).

3 Ad Hoc Art

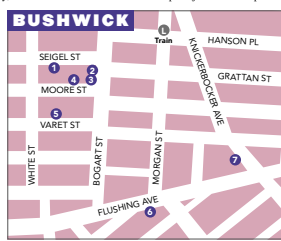
Ad Hoc Art is the gallery that best defines Bushwick's ever-changing art scene, mirroring the diversity of the emerging cultural community.

"We take risks on people that are definitely not established artists," said gallery owner Garrison Buxton. "We show very well-known artists and people that are completely under-exposed — from urban street art to pop surrealism and low-brow art like modern tattoo culture."

Ad Hoc (49 Bogart Street between Grattan and Moore streets, (718) 366-2466).

4 Roberta's

Even Bushwick's best pizzeria feels like an artist's loft. The wood-oven pizza joint



Roberta's operates out of a massive, concrete-floored room at the corner of Bogart and Moore streets, but despite the industrial interior, Roberta's feels like a cozy neighborhood eatery. Diners grub on 12-inch pies (\$7 to \$15) that range from classic styles to more experimental varieties — like a mozzarella pie topped with and homemade guanciale and a slightly runny egg.

Roberta's (261 Moore St. at Bogart Street, (718) 477-1118).

5 Cafe Orwell

The managers of this newly opened cafe, which poured its first cup of Stumptown coffee on Jan. 5, are hoping to turn their spacious coffee shop into a de facto community center.

"People here are trying to create places that aren't the standard fare for Manhattan — or for Brooklyn," said manager Nick DaMason, who in February is planning to launch a series of contemporary chamber concerts and a monthly music forum with emerging composers.

Also on tap for the wood-floored coffee shop — which doubles as an art gallery — is a monthly book club and an ongoing film series.

Despite the big plans, Cafe Orwell remains a low-key place to sip coffee (\$2.25) or espresso (\$2.50) amidst a pleasing array of eclectic

furniture. Cafe Orwell (247 Varet Street between Bogart and White streets, (347) 294-4759).

6 Wreck Room

No offense to the guys behind the Bushwick watering hole Wreck Room, but maybe they should rename their popular pub "Junkyard." The brick walls of the Flushing Avenue pub are adorned with fenders and lights plucked from trashed cars, and most of the chairs are still equipped with seatbelts. The regulars look past the automotive aesthetics (either a nod to the neighborhood's industrial past or the film "The Fast and the Furious") and enjoy cheap drinks, pinball machine and pool tables and a soundtrack provided by live DJs who spin hip-hop or rock, depending on the crowd.

Wreck Room (940 Flushing Ave. between Central and Evergreen avenues, (718) 418-6347).

7 Urban Jungle Vintage

This converted second-hand shop is the best place to purchase the North Brooklyn uniform, which experts say consists of patterned dresses, flannels, fedoras and Levis. Guys peruse the racks for lightly worn pairs of Carhart trousers and checkered shirts, while ladies search for 1950s-style dresses, pumps and flats at Bushwick's answer to Beacon's Closet. The prices at Urban Jungle Vintage are low and organization is minimal, which just makes that diamond in the rough even shinier.

Urban Jungle Vintage (120 Knickerbocker Ave. between Flushing Avenue and Thames Street, (718) 497-1331, Open daily, noon-7 p.m.

FOOTBALL!

Steel away

Brooklynites who bleed black and gold won't have to go far to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, because the Brownstone belt boasts some of the liveliest Pittsburgh Steelers bars around.

Cody's Ale House in Cobble Hill has been a haven for Steelers fans ever since a Pittsburgh ex-pat got a job as a waitress at the Court Street tavern.

"All the Steelers fans come in here with their Terrible Towels," boasted manager Ann Gaffney, whose bar will offer beer specials during the Big Game.

At the Park Slope bar 200 Fifth, Steelers fans can watch the Super Bowl on 50 screens while downing Iron City — the watery brew that made the Three Rivers city famous. The pub will also offer a \$45 Super Bowl open bar that includes an all-you-can-eat halftime buffet.

But just because 200 Fifth regularly draws upwards of 60 Steelers fans, doesn't mean that Pittsburghers shouldn't expect some opposition during the big game.

"We always get a very large crowd of Steelers fans, but this being Brooklyn, I'd expect a bunch of Giants fans are going to show up and root for Arizona," said manager Rob Michel. Super Bowl XLIII is on Feb. 1. Kickoff is at 6:28 p.m. Cody's Ale House Grill (154 Court St. between Dean and Pacific streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 852-6115), 200 Fifth (200 Fifth Ave. between Union Street and Berkeley Place in Park Slope, (718) 638-2925). — Ben Muessig

MUSIC

Bell canto

Brooklyn's hottest summer concert series is warming things with a rare winter dance party at the Bell House on Feb. 7.

The cold-weather concert, featuring funk band Sealio (pictured), is part-party, part-development event for Brooklyn Information & Culture, the not-for-profit that has staged the Celebrate Brooklyn shows at the Prospect Park bandshell since 1979.

"We're going into Brooklyn's newest and most fantastic venue with a fun social event. There's no pretense. Just come and dance your ass off," said Jack Walsh, executive director of Celebrate Brooklyn.

But don't forget your wallet. Unlike the majority of the summer performances, which are usually free, it will cost \$15 to get in.

"We're not making any money on this. We're just covering our costs and hoping that people will keep us in mind [for future donations]," Walsh said.

Celebrate Brooklyn's Winter Dance Party at the Bell House (149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues), Feb. 7, 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$50 for VIPs). Visit www.brooklyn.org/celebrate to purchase tickets.

— Mike McLaughlin

DINING

Good 'Stop'

The Stumptown revolution continues! The Portland-based coffee purveyor that just announced its plans to open a roasting plant in Red Hook is now offering its gourmet grinds at the newly opened Second Stop Cafe in Williamsburg.

Baristas at the honey space at the corner of Ainslie and Lorimer streets received more than 100 hours of training aiming to teach them how to brew the quintessential coffee and pull the perfect shot, according to Craig Krafon, an owner.

"We use machines tweaked to the Stumptown specifications," said Krafon, whose cafe opened on Jan. 17.

Visitors can lounge among reclaimed furniture and chandeliers, and order from the still-growing menu, which already boasts homemade baked goods and savory dishes like a vegetarian three-bean chili with cornbread (\$6.50), and a baked eggplant with mesclun (\$8.50).

Second Stop Cafe (524 Lorimer St. at Ainslie Street in Williamsburg, (718) 486-4850). Open Monday to Friday, 7 am to 11 pm, Saturday and Sunday, 8 am to 11 pm.

— Ben Muessig

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(718) 425-8400, www.austine.com/hankscasual.
Jan. 31: Jamie Lynn and the Red Tail Hawks, 9 pm, FREE.

BUSHWICK
Market Hotel
1142 Myrtle Ave. at Broadway,
No phone, www.myspace.com/markethotel.
Jan. 31: Ava Luna, 500 n.d., Motel Motel, 5 pm, \$10; Feb. 4: Woods, Blank Dogs, Waves, 8 pm, \$10.

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(718) 230-5227, www.jelanolounge.com.
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(718) 395-3214, www.jalepy.com.
Mondays: Tony Scher, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Roots 'n' Rhythms, a night of funk, old-time, and blues, 9:30 pm, FREE; Jan. 31: Dean Brown, 10:30 pm, \$10; Feb. 2: Tony Scher, 9 pm, \$10; Feb. 4: Colonial Radio, 10 pm, \$5; Feb. 6: Dick O'Car and the Ambassadors of Love, 9 pm, \$10.

DUMBO
Galapagos
16 Men St. at Water Street,
(718) 222-8500, www.galapagosrestaurant.com.
Jan. 31: Rockstar: A Sensual Circus, 10 pm, \$10/\$20; Feb. 3: Screening of Frank Capra's American Madness, 7 pm, FREE.

FORT GREENE
BAM Cafe
30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place,
(718) 230-4100, www.bamcafe.org.
Jan. 31: Kirsten Price, 10 pm, FREE; Feb. 4: Sounds Like Brooklyn: Taylor McHarris and Friends, 10 pm, FREE.

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The Bell House
149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue,
(718) 643-0210, www.thebellhouse.com.
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arts The Django Experiment, 9 pm, \$10; Tuesdays: Soul, Soul Party, 9 pm, \$10; Wednesdays: Stochastic Brooklyn, 8 pm, \$10 per set; The Mandingos Ambassadors, 10 pm, \$10; JAN. 31: Cato Loco, 8 pm, \$10; Red Baraat Festival, 10 pm, \$10; Feb. 1: Jazzy Radio, 7 pm, \$10; Feb. 2: Chicha Libre, 9:30 pm, \$10; Feb. 3: Tamarit Kavalier, 7 pm, \$10; Feb. 4: The Queens, 8 pm, \$10; Bethel Green, 10 pm, \$10; Feb. 5: Cocoon, 8 pm, \$10; The Moonlighters, 10 pm, \$10.

Puppets Jazz Bar
481 Fifth Ave. at 13th Street, (718) 499-2622, www.puppetsjazz.com.
Sundays: Jaws for Jazz, 5 pm, \$10; Mondays: Jam Session with Justin Cowley, 9 pm, \$10; JAN. 31: Charvet Moffett Trio, 8 pm, \$10; Feb. 1: Jazzy Radio, 7 pm, \$10; Feb. 2: Chicha Libre, 9:30 pm, \$10; Feb. 3: Tamarit Kavalier, 7 pm, \$10; Feb. 4: The Queens, 8 pm, \$10; Bethel Green, 10 pm, \$10; Feb. 5: Cocoon, 8 pm, \$10; The Moonlighters, 10 pm, \$10.

Southpaw
125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place,
(718) 230-0236, www.southpaw.com.
Jan. 31: Super Bowl party, 6 pm, FREE; Feb. 4: Astronauts of Antiquity, 8 pm, \$10; Feb. 5: The Bubba Vodka Orchestra, 8 pm, \$10; Feb. 6: Final Outlaw, 8 pm, \$10.

Williamsburg
Black Betty
564 Metropolitan Ave. at 10th Avenue,
(718) 599-0242, www.blackbetty.net.
Saturdays: DJ Emilee and G Man the present the New York Love Not War party, 10 pm, FREE; Sundays: "Brazilian Beat Brooklyn" with DJ Sean Mansueti and DJ Greg Caz, 9 pm, FREE; Mondays: Rev. Vince Anderson and his Love Choir, 10:30 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: "Saturday Night Soundz" hosted by DJ Shen Barclay, 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays: "What is Soul?" with DJ Adrien Hibbs, 9 pm, FREE; Fridays: The Greenhouse with DJ MoreOne and DJ Emilee and MC G-man, 10 pm, FREE.

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Pete's Candy Store
709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street,
(718) 302-3770, www.petes-candystore.com.
Jan. 31: Mia Riddle and her band, 9 pm; Brandon Wallingford, 10 pm; Reuben Chiss, 11 pm; Feb. 1: Open mic, 5:45 pm; Sasha Dobson, 8:30 pm; Amy Crawford, 9:30 pm; Feb. 2: Spelling Bee, 7:30 pm, FREE; Easter Bait, 9:30 pm; Feb. 3: Wood, Wines and Whiskey, 7 pm.

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Dragland, 9 pm; Ode Music, 10 pm; Baby Copperhead, 11 pm; Feb. 4: Quize off, 7:30 pm; Daniel Goodwin, 10 pm; Gurling Bird, 100 pm; Feb. 5: Meredith Clara, 9 pm; Lani Ballard, 10 pm; Feb. 6: Equestrian, 9 pm; Mattison, 10 pm; Modern Medical Miracle, 11 pm.

Public Assembly
70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue,
(718) 782-5188, www.publicassemblynyc.com.
Sundays: Sit & Bury Karaoke (front room), 8 pm, FREE; Jan. 31: The Monday Night Bachelorette (front room), 8 pm, FREE; Jan. 31: Crooked Disco (front room), 10 pm, \$10; Feb. 3: Arvan Ortiz (back room), 9 pm, \$10; Ellis Aulbach (front room), 9 pm, \$7; The Pigs (back room), 9 pm; Feb. 5: Deli Mag party with The Dig and others (front room), 8 pm, \$10; Feb. 6: The Bunker, 10 pm.

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BROOKLYN BODIES PARADE

GERSH BARES ALL, FOR ART'S SAKE

Forty people saw me naked and enjoyed it last week. And it wasn't just because they were drinking. The occasion of my nude triumph was the bi-weekly "Drink and Draw" class at 3rd Ward, an artists' collective in Bushwick.

Now, if you're like me, you hear the words "drink," "draw," "artists' collective" and "Bushwick," and you think, "How can I ensure that this ends up with me naked in front of 40 strangers?" Turns out, it was easy. We had listed "Drink and Draw" in The Brooklyn Paper calendar for a few weeks before I dawned on me that the



live model was most likely nude (look, I may not have majored in art history, but I think I can understand why Vermeer liked having his models wearing little else

but a pearl earring). And it dawned on me that I could be the model. My wife, mocked me. "You? An artists' model?" she derided. "Maybe you can get them to draw your toenails."

Yes, my toenails are disgusting (it's a medical condition), but clearly my wife was just jealous. After all, no one has asked her to pose nude in Bushwick (at least since the '70s).

So why shouldn't I be the object of artistic obsession? True, I don't have what one (and when I say "one," I mean 98 percent of all Americans) would call a pleasing body. I'm overweight, I have a sunken sternum that gives the illusion (it's an illusion, I assure you) that I have large man-breasts. I have wide hips capped by thick tire-like handles and, frankly, I have the endowment of a minor community college.

Before posing, I was a bit concerned that my physical inadequacies would be a problem, so I wrote the "Drink and Draw" coordinator at 3rd Ward.

"You do know that I'm lumpy and middle aged," I wrote. "Is that a problem?" Her answer: "We love you just the way you are. We've had homeless men and male models pose. You'll become one in the middle, I suppose."

My other question: "How graphic will the poses be? I'm not concerned for my own modesty, but I should warn you that there will be some snickering from the artists."

Her answer: "No weird

http://
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BrooklynPaper.com



Editor Gersh Kuntzman donned only a flesh tuxedo for a date with a Bushwick art class. Try to avert your eyes. You can't, can you?

kinky sex poses."

Finally, it was time to doff the robe and give them the Full Bushwick. Now, you might think I cowered in the corner, showing little more than my penis. I stood at attention, I laid down on a table, I rolled on the floor. I cooked my hips, I gave new meaning to the expression,

"Let's hang out sometime." And I was appreciated. Oh, yes, I was appreciated. "You were good," said Annie Letterman, a first-time "Drink and Draw" artist. "You have an interesting body."

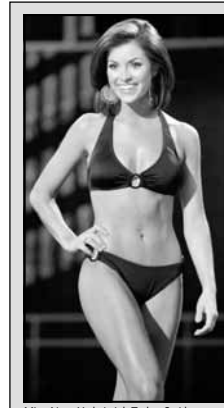
Interesting? Go on. "It's the way that your hips curve — child-bearing," she added, winking.

I looked at her completed drawing; she had made me look as if I was with six

months pregnant.

Now, if she had only rendered my toenails as accurately, my wife would be satisfied.

Drink and Draw at 3rd Ward 195 Morgan Ave., at Stagg Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961, every other Wednesday. \$15 (includes all the Past Blue Ribbon you can drink). Gersh Kuntzman will not be the model at Feb. 6 class. Whew.



Miss New York Leigh-Taylor Smith won a swimsuit preliminary, but was later snubbed!

Miss Brooklyn: I wuzn't robbed

There's only one person who disputes that the Miss America Organization made an egregious error when it snubbed Miss Brooklyn Leigh-Taylor Smith: Leigh-Taylor Smith. Showing the grace and style that has shone throughout the grueling death march that is our nation's premiere beauty pageant, Smith told The Brooklyn Paper on Tuesday that she did not feel snubbed, betrayed, abused, let down or otherwise diminished by the panel of judges that made Miss Indiana, Kate Stam, this year's Miss America.

"No, the fix was in," Smith told me by phone when this columnist suggested that the fix was, un, in. "I was right up there with the others, in the final five, because it was a fair process."

Readers of this column have long known that I have little respect for the Miss America Organization.

It's now been 25 years since Vanessa Williams became the last Miss New York to win it

all. Since then, it's been an endless procession of airy blondes with middle-aged-lady hairstyles, a talent for baton-twirling and vaguely Southern accents who have hijacked the notion of American beauty. This was our year! We had Leigh-Taylor Smith. She's got talent! She's got brains! She plays at the Brooklyn Tabernacle in Downtown. And no one pulls off a bikini like she does (I'm speaking figuratively, alas!).

But, alas, life isn't fair. "Yes, it is fair," Smith told me. "I performed as well as I could. I left it all up there on the stage. For me, it was just very exciting to get into the final round."

Even more exciting is the \$18,000 in scholarship money that she gets to spend pursuing her Masters degree in design. She's looking at Parsons or Fashion Institute of Technology, both in Ghatapan. For now, she's Miss New York until June.

Coney rocket in city's pocket

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

The iconic Coney Island Rocket will soar again. City officials promised as much on Wednesday when they accepted the showman Astroland relic as a donation from owners Carol and Jerry Albert, whose Space Age theme park closed for good last fall.

"The Rocket is [a] symbol of the adventure, discovery and fun that have brought New Yorkers to Coney Island for years," Deputy Mayor Richard L. Lirio said at a handoff ceremony at the New York Aquarium. "I am pleased to say that the Rocket will continue to be part of Coney Island for generations to come."



City officials, including Councilman Dominic Recchia (left) and Borough President Markowitz (center), announced that they had "saved" the iconic Astroland Rocket and will store it for its future mission: in a revived Coney Island amusement zone.

The city will store the "imaginary" space voyage simulator constructed during the Space Race. The Rocket showed simulator films of "rocket rides" while the chassis "rocked" its viewers to outer space, according to the history project's Web site.

The ride had 26 seats and lasted three minutes. Astroland closed in September after the Alberts' bankruptcy. The city bought the 10-and-a-half-acre of land in the amusement area and along the Boardwalk, bought the land from them in 2006 for \$30 million and then rented it back to them.

It was "one of the first of the 'imaginary' space voyage simulators constructed during the Space Race. The Rocket showed simulator films of 'rocket rides' while the chassis 'rocked' its viewers to outer space," according to the history project's Web site.

2009 forecast: Doom and gloom!

Chamber bizmen prepare for worst

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A wave of doom and gloom is rippling across Brooklyn's business community — surprise! — according to a new survey of borough professionals released on Monday. And they have every right to be scared out of their minds, according to experts who gave a forbidding economic forecast the next day.

Fifty-seven percent of businesses polled by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce said they expect the economy to be worse this year, when only 18 percent of merchants said local business would be worse than the year before.

When asked about their

own companies, 53 percent of the 109 respondents said they are bracing for a worse 2009 than 2008. Last year, 17 percent said they expected their business to drop.

Only 32 percent said they expect to do better in 2009 than in 2008, a drop of 22 points compared to last year's poll.

The findings of the study did not surprise Chamber business.

"We have fewer new gym members this year than last year," said Rayanna Menzer, the general manager of Harbor Fitness in Park Slope. Fitness clubs typically see a surge in membership after people make New Year's resolutions to get in shape.

The opinion poll that they do not plan to lay anyone off.

Not yet, at least. Thunberg was reelected on Monday on the eve of the Chamber's annual "economic outlook breakfast" on Tuesday morning at the Brooklyn Marriott.

The ominous reports from the experts were enough to cause some attendees to lose their appetite in the hotel's ballroom.

"The downturn in the city will be longer and sharper," than the rest of the country, said George Sweeting, deputy director of the City Independent Budget Office. "We're looking at a major contraction of the city economy." (That means Brooklyn, too.)

Sweeting said the city may shed 243,000 jobs during the recession, many of them in



Independent Budget Office Deputy Director George Sweeting questioned Atlantic Yards.

the first half of 2009. His remarks also suggested that Downtown Brooklyn could bear the brunt of the pain, because with vacancy rates for commercial space increasing in Manhattan, the outer boroughs will lose their luster as a fringe alternative.

Others said the city will be dependent on the small business community to get through the choppy seas. "Small businesses continue to be the backbone of the city economy," said Andrew Kimball, president of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the city-owned industrial park, which incubates many small companies.

Unlike the chaos on Wall Street, Kimball said he's lost only one tenant in the Navy Yard in the last three months.

Sweeting said that the escalating costs of the proposed publicly financed basketball arena at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues now close to \$950 million, from an original price tag of \$400 million in 2003 — might eliminate the supposed benefit to the city of the arena.

In 2005, an IBO study found that the arena would net \$950,000 in surpluses every year during the arena's 30-year financing period — purely revenue projections in a city whose annual budget is \$60 billion.

Forget Candy! Unique, whimsical clothing for the whole family designed in the traditional batik wax dye method

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Sweetening sour on Ratner's Yards

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

A more-expensive version of the arena will now require more-expensive financing by the public, Sweeting said. In addition, the New York Port Republic and Ratner has been negotiating with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to scale back \$345 million in improvements that he proposed to undertake as part of his winning bid for the Vanderbilt railroad over which he proposes to build the arena.

"If amenities are scaled back, it's reasonable to look at whether the city's contributions and the MTA land deal still show a positive in the cost-benefit calculation," Sweeting said.

Sweeting said that the escalating costs of the proposed publicly financed basketball arena at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues now close to \$950 million, from an original price tag of \$400 million in 2003 — might eliminate the supposed benefit to the city of the arena.

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Amendment to Bankruptcy Petition Saved Millions!

A brother tried to help his sister when her house fell into foreclosure. And it almost cost him millions of dollars.



Based upon the brother's good credit, his sister bought a house in Queens in 2006. At some point, she was unable to keep up with the mortgage payments and fell into foreclosure.

On the eve of the foreclosure sale, the brother filed a bankruptcy petition to "stay" the sale. The deed was sold for family home loans. Unfortunately, it is common these days for the brother did not understand something very important: the personal injury lawsuit he filed years earlier, relating to a construction work-site injury in which he was severely injured, was an "asset" of his to be listed in his bankruptcy petition. Unfortunately, the Chapter 13 bankruptcy case was dismissed because the brother could not make the mortgage or bankruptcy plan payments. The house was later sold in foreclosure sale.

State Court Motion to Dismiss Personal Injury Lawsuit: Subsequently, the defendants in the state court personal injury case asked the judge to dismiss the case based upon the failure of the injured person to list the pending lawsuit as a "contingent asset" in his bankruptcy petition. Substantial New York case law going all the way up to the New York State Court of Appeals has held that the failure to list the asset in the petition is fatal to the continuance of the personal injury case — every case on point says the injured person's lawsuit gets dismissed without any recovery, no matter how grave the injury.

Uncharted Course Taken: Faced with this apparently insurmountable challenge, Richard A. Klase, Your Court Street Lawyer, was brought in to help save the man's personal injury case. His strategy: return to the Bankruptcy Court to seek to amend the petition to reflect the existence of the personal injury claim. This was truly bold!

In determining that the debtor's personal injury claim should be permitted to amend his bankruptcy petition to list the claim as an asset, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Craig stated: "This Court has not found any statute, rule or

precedent that provides that a debtor's right to amend expires upon dismissal of the case, or that the order dismissing the case must be vacated before a subsequent statement of assets may be amended."

Interplay between "Closed" and "Open": At first glance, the court noted that the bankruptcy case was marked "closed." The judge was skeptical that an amendment to the petition could be made because Bankruptcy Rule 1009 provides that "a voluntary petition, list, schedule, or statement may be amended by the debtor as a matter of course at any time before the case is closed." However, in relying upon the decision in In re Critical Care Support Services, 226 BR 137, it was pointed out that a case can only be "closed" when the assets of the bankruptcy estate have been fully administered. This term "closed," as used in Bankruptcy Rule 1009 and Bankruptcy Code §350, does not encompass "dismissed" cases. Thus, an Order dismissing a case accomplishes a completely different result than an Order closing it would; essentially, upon dismissal of a bankruptcy case, all of the debtor's rights in his property never truly end.

Separately, the court also held that, as part of accepting the debtor's amendment, it could reject the amendment when "the facts and circumstances presented indicate that the amendment was filed in bad faith, fraudulent or prejudicial." In this case, Judge Craig held that there was no evidence of bad faith, fraud or prejudice; the state court defendants' argument that granting the amendment would "reward" the debtor was not persuasive. In the absence of any evidence that the debtor's motion to amend his bankruptcy petition, the state court defendants in the personal injury lawsuit withdrew their motion to dismiss the case. The plaintiff's case is now pending through the New York State Supreme Court towards a trial, in which his serious injuries will be remedied by jury.

Richard A. Klase, Esq., maintains a law firm engaged in civil litigation at 14 Court Street, 29th Floor, Brooklyn Heights, New York. He may be reached by phone at (718) COURTSST or e-mail at Richard@CourtStreetLaw.com with any questions. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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Park Slope

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8
lectures on glow-in-the-dark
House 147 Seventh St. at
Third Avenue in Gowanus,
(718) 643-6300, www.
thehellhouse.com.

SHORT FILMS Erle Youngs
pays a night of her short
films with those of her
favorite female directors.
\$10. 8 pm. Gateway Arts
Space 16 Main St. at
Water Street in DUMBO,
(718) 222-8500, www.
gatewayartspace.com.

THU, FEB 5

PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, "THE PROTES-
TANTS"** See Saturday,
Jan. 31.
THEATER, "DISARMER" 8
pm. See Saturday, Jan. 31.
**THEATER, "THOROUGHLY
MODERN MILLE"** See
Saturday, Jan. 31.

OTHER

OPENING RECEPTION:
"Clamoring to Become
Viable." Multiple art
show examines the written
word in a gallery space.
Free. 6-8 pm. Gallery
1111 First St. at Washing-
ton Street, Suite 218 in
DUMBO (718) 625-0080.
READING BY BETH HARRIZ:
Park Slope author reads
from "12 in the New 18...
and other things my child
didn't taught me while I
was having a nervous break-
down being their mother."
Hosted by "Smitten Girl"
Louise Crawford. Free. 7:30
pm. Barnes & Noble 240
Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street
in Park Slope.

FRI, FEB 6

PERFORMANCE

**THEATER, "THE PROTES-
TANTS"** See Saturday,
Jan. 31.
THEATER, "DISARMER" 8
pm. See Saturday, Jan. 31.
**THEATER, "THOROUGHLY
MODERN MILLE"** See
Saturday, Jan. 31.

OTHER

FILM, "FLOW" Award-win-
ning documentary on the
world water crisis. Free.
7:30 pm. Park Slope United
Methodist Church 140
Sixth Ave. at Eighth Street
in Park Slope. (718) 748-
3073, www.parkslopeumc.org.

OTHER

FILM, "FLOW" Award-win-
ning documentary on the
world water crisis. Free.
7:30 pm. Park Slope United
Methodist Church 140
Sixth Ave. at Eighth Street
in Park Slope. (718) 748-
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SAT, FEB 7

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, "DISARMER" 8
pm. See Saturday, Jan. 31.
**THEATER, "THOROUGHLY
MODERN MILLE"** See
Saturday, Jan. 31.

MUSIC, JAZZ MASTER

CLASS: With Steve Cole-
man and Five Elements.
\$15 (\$10 students). 5:30-7
pm. Belairman Church
Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street
in Downtown Brooklyn.
(718) 369-6211, www.
connectionsworks.org.

THEATER, "THE PROTES- TANTS"

See Saturday,
Jan. 31.

PATTI AUSTIN AND THE DUKE ELLINGTON OR- CHESTRA

8 pm. Brooklyn Center for
the Performing Arts at Brooklyn
College 2900 Bedford Ave.
at Avenue H in Flatbush.
(718) 951-4400, www.
brooklyncenter.com.

JAZZ: Brooklyn Music Wide

Open presents the Con-
nection Works Ensemble.
Steve Coleman and Five El-
ements. \$15 (\$10 students).
8 pm. Belairman Church
Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street
in Downtown Brooklyn.
(718) 369-6211, www.
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Council hopefuls for Yassky seat looking for cash



In the running: Abraham, Simon, Thies, Baer, Levin and Diamondstone.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Let the money games begin!

The term-limit opponent Council-
man David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights)
has made stronger indications that he is in-
deed running for controller and not for re-
election, the six candidates to succeed him
say the money will really start flowing into
their coffers.

The uncertainty of Yassky's candidacy
— even more so than the stagnant economy
and the historic presidential race just con-
cluded — depressed the fundraising rates
for local candidates.

"The first time I thought about fund-
raising was on Monday after Yassky announced
he'd solidified his campaign for controller,"
said Isaac Abraham, who pulled in the biggest
amount of money in just-released data by the
city Campaign Finance Board — \$11,892 be-
tween July 12 last year and Jan. 11 — among
the six candidates to represent the district
covering the area bounded by Greenpoint,
Brooklyn Heights and Park Slope.

After Yassky backed Mayor Bloomberg's
sounding horn to extend term limits, there
had been lingering doubts that Yassky would
make good on his vow to run for controller.
But those questions largely vaporized
with the legislator's announcement

in a recent e-mail to supporters that he'd
hired high-priced media consultant Josh
Lay, whose other clients include winner
Mayor Bloomberg and loser Caroline Ken-
nedy. Yassky's campaign office did not re-
turn calls for comment.

"Yassky's intentions were certainly a
question," said Jo Anne Simon, another
aspiring councilmember.

"I always believed that if Controller [Bill]
Thompson ran for mayor then Yassky would
continue his run for citywide office. Now,
that question has been answered."

So Abraham, Simon and the gang hope
donors open up their checkbooks, because
the candidates' war chests are fairly de-
pleted.

Simon, a Democratic district leader from
Boerum Hill, pulled in the second highest
total — \$10,760. That added to her lead-
ing total of \$65,797. The second runner-up
in the money game was Evan Thies, a for-
mer staffer for Yassky, who posted \$9,445.
He's raised \$58,065, but has only spent
\$15,838 compared to Simon's expendi-
tures of \$40,143.

Rounding out the race are Ken Baer, a
former State Club chair in New York, with
\$5,927; Stephen Levin, chief of staff for As-
semblyman Vito Lopez, with \$2,475; and
Ken Diamondstone, who pulled in \$2,395.

PARK

Continued from page 1

finished by the end of the
year.

On the eve of a public
hearing set for Thursday
night, reaction to the new
cost and maintenance fig-
ures was muted, even from
one of the park project's
critics, state Sen. Daniel
Squadron (D-Carroll Gar-
dens).

"Absolutely there are con-
cerns about these numbers,
but this is the moment to
get them out and into the
hands of the community,"
the first-term lawmaker
said.

The Brooklyn Bridge
Park Development Cor-
poration, the state agency
building the lawns, play-
grounds and playing fields
on piers and islands, has
strictly guarded the park's
figures since revealing last
May that the price had
topped \$300 million.

"I hope this is the begin-
ning of continued trans-
parency and openness,"
Squadron said.

The project's finances
are steeped in contro-
versy because of the un-
usual arrangement that per-
mits luxury housing and a
hotel inside the park "as a
way of generating rev-
enue for maintenance of the
grounds."

The private elements
— 1,270 apartments and
a 225-bed hotel, plus re-
tail space — are supposed
to contribute fees to cover
the parkland's yearly bud-
get instead of paying nor-
mal taxes.

That revenue stream is
dry except for 497 apart-
ments that are already be-
ing built at One Brooklyn
Bridge, a former Jehovah's
witness complex on Fulton
Street. State officials say
that the building will
contribute \$3 million an-
nually — "which will help
us to maintain the park for
several years."

DOCK

Continued from page 10

He still lives on
Main Street with his wife,
Jane.

He made millions, yes,
but he hardly thinks his op-
ponents, many of them well
off residents of Brooklyn
Heights, want to make the
intellectually dishonest ar-
gument that risk-taking re-
sponsible investors should
be denied a profit.

And let us forget, all
of the buildings that have
been the target of DUMBO
residents and workers —
including the ugly Bea-
con Tower that destroys
the view of the Manhattan
Bridge and the 35-story
J.P. Morgan — were the ones
NOT built by Walentas.

While Walentas was
nurturing arts groups
and Mom and Pop stores,
someone else brought in
the generic Starbucks that
DUMBO residents love to
hate.

Time and time again,
David and Jed Walentas
has proven to be re-
sponsible stewards of their
DUMBO holdings.

Their Dock Street project
should be approved.

HEALTH, MIND, & BODY

Continued from page 1

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TORAH...

Continued from page 1

rah theft since the registry's inception," said David Pol-
ack of the Jewish Community Relations Council, which
runs the registry.

The few thefts that do occur these days are generally
inside jobs, according to Pollack.

Usually, it's someone that knows where the Torahs
are and has access to them. "In fact,"

But the robber's unorthodox methods — deeply
unorthodox, perhaps — has Baer Avraham's conscience
convicted the robber doesn't know what he's got.

"Whoever stole it probably didn't know it was a To-
rah," said Weinstein. "If a man returns it, he'll get \$1,000
and a kiss, no questions asked."

Weinstein said that if a woman returns it, she'll get
the \$1,000 only — religious rules, you understand.

To offer any information about the stolen Torah, call
Congregation B'nai Avraham at (718) 866-6815.

SMART...

Continued from page 1

pare for some hefty therapist bills as he torts grow up. And
that's worse, she might even lose some of her readers!

If your kids and neighbors won't talk because they
are being written up, think of something else to write.
Write RK from Park Slope. "It's not our choice. Bring it
to the next level."

"If Simon doesn't stop, I suspect that she will
find out many more from now that the resentment on
her children's part [will not diminish]," added Car-
roll from Gowanus.

Bottom line: Few (except for Dumb Editor) of course, but
he poses in the made) defended Smartmon's decision to
put her life — and the lives of others — on display.

"These are her children — the heart of her being —
she's playing with it," added "Another Mother from Down-
town." "Maybe if she gets in touch with that reality, she'll
recognize her career imperatively, find a more meaning-
ful, less harmful way to express herself and wind up a much
smarter mom (and wife, neighbor and friend, too).

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geriatric patients a plus.
Interested parties should
submit resume to:
Ms. Susan M. Gorman,
Director of Human Resources,
Northwell Astor Day Health
Care, 1000 1st Ave., 10th
Floor, New York, NY 10001.
Please call 212-312-3000 for
an interview.

LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS COUNTRYWIDE HOME
LOANS INC. FVCA COUNTRYWIDE FUNDING CORP. Plaintiff against
COUNTRYWIDE FUNDING CORP. Defendant.** The undersigned, Clerk of the
County of Kings County, New York, do hereby certify that the
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